

Appl. No. 10/605,556
Amdt. dated November 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 23, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-12, 17, and 37-48 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 13 and 18 have been amended and claims 49-51 have been added. Thus, claims 13-15, 18-24, and 49-51 are presently pending with claim 13 being independent.

Applicants wish to express their appreciation for the interview conducted on November 15, 2005, and thank the Examiner for his time and consideration given during that interview. It is noted that claim 13 and proposed amendments to that claim were discussed during the interview. Moreover, it was agreed that the proposed amendments would distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art that is presently of record.

Applicants further wish to make note of a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") submitted on October 13, 2004, which was discussed during the interview. As discussed, Applicants received no formal notification or correspondence that the IDS had been previously considered. However, it was agreed during the interview that the Examiner would consider the IDS and issue a letter indicating the same. Thus, it was also agreed that the references listed in the IDS would not need to be resubmitted in an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration with Applicants' Request For Continued Examination. Applicants thank the Examiner for resolving this issue.

Therefore, the present application should now be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (800) 445-3460.

A 3-month Petition for Extension of Time accompanies this Amendment, along with a check in the amount of \$510.00 for the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

HOVEY WILLIAMS LLP

By:



Andrew G. Colombo, Reg. No. 40,565
2405 Grand Boulevard, Suite 400
Kansas City, Missouri 64108
(816) 474-9050

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT